

# COACHING EDUCATION



## Coaching Education Required 2009-10

In January of 2008, the IESA Board of Directors voted to require that all members of a school's athletic coaching staff must have successfully completed an approved coaching education program. The requirement goes into effect for the 2009-10 school year. However, the Board recommends that member schools adopt a local policy for the 2008-09 school year that encourages their athletic coaching staff to pursue completing the requirement as soon as possible.

Interscholastic Athletics can be a great way to teach life skills and learn important life lessons. The IESA is committed to improving the quality of coaching in our member schools and the IESA Coaching Essentials course, offered through ASEP, is being created to assist middle school coaches in creating a developmentally appropriate experience for students in junior high schools.

By-laws and specific information concerning the ASEP programs approved by the IESA Board of Directors is enclosed on the following pages of this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to review this pertinent information. Any questions you might have concerning the requirement should be directed to the IESA Office.

### Special points of interest:

- IESA Bylaw changes for 2008-09
- About ASEP
- Approved Courses

## APPROVED COACHES EDUCATION COURSES

The IESA Board of Directors has approved the following two courses for IESA middle school coaches.

### ASEP/IESA Coaching Essentials Course

- Available August 2008
- Cost: Online Course \$19.95
- Completed Online (avg. 3 hours)

### ASEP/IHSA Coaching Principles Course

- Available Now
- Cost: Online Version: \$115 (w/IHSA bylaws)  
Sport First Aid Course: \$95  
Classroom course: price set by instructor

If you would like to be notified when the IESA Coaching Essentials course is available online, email Lori Brown at ASEP at LoriB@hkusa.com. The IESA is currently working with ASEP to finish this program by August 2008.

The IHSA Coaching Principles course does meet the IESA coaches education requirement. Those coaches that desire to coach at both the middle school and high school levels do not need to take both tests. More information concerning the IHSA program visit the IHSA website for current listing of Coaching Principle clinics in your area. Price does vary on the classroom course.



### Inside

**IESA Bylaws** p. 2-3

**ASEP** p. 3

## IESA Bylaw Changes (effective 2009-10)

### 2.110 QUALIFICATIONS OF NON-ATHLETIC COACHES

Non-athletic instructors in all member schools shall be designated by their Board of Education or governing board as personnel responsible for the supervision of the school's contestants.

#### Q&A

Q. Do cheer coaches have to take a coach's certification test?

A. No, cheer coaches are considered non-athletic coaches and simply must be approved by their Board of Education or governing board as personnel responsible for the supervision of the school's contestants.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF ATHLETIC COACHES

Athletic coaches in all member schools shall be designated by their Board of Education or governing board as personnel responsible for the supervision of the school's contestants. Athletic coaches in member schools shall be regularly certified to teach in the schools of Illinois or must complete an approved coaching education course.

If the following criteria are met for athletic coaches who are certified to teach, these individuals are exempt from taking a required coaches education course:

- (a) Teaching or supervising classroom activity at least two periods daily in the member school; or
- (b) Employed full-time in any elementary, junior high, or high school; or
- (c) An assistant teacher, resource aide, lay supervisor or other paraprofessional who is employed at least half-time per day in the member school; or
- (d) Teaching full time, within the provisions of the Illinois School Code, in a member school or in a vocational or special education cooperative in which the member school participates; or
- (e) A retired teacher from a member school provided the person remains certified to teach.

The Board of Directors shall approve proposed coaches education courses through which individuals may meet the requirements of section 2.110

Students in teacher-training institutions may be assigned to assist with the coaching of athletic teams in a member school as a part of their practice teaching course provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach under the provision of Sections 2.110.

#### Q&A

##### GENERAL

Q. What does the phrase 'regularly certified to teach in the schools of Illinois' mean?

A. You are a person who has fulfilled the requirements of state law to teach by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Q. How often does a coach have to take the approved coaches education course?

A. Once.

##### STUDENT TEACHERS

Q. May a student teacher assist with the coaching of an athletic team?

A. Yes, provided it is part of the student teaching experience.

Q. May student teachers continue coaching their student teaching assignments after the regular student teaching period ends?

A. Yes, provided their college or university authorizes the continuation.

##### VOLUNTEER COACHES

Q. May a person volunteer to coach without pay at a member school?

A. Yes. However, whether a person is paid to coach or is a non-paid volunteer, the person must meet the qualification requirements of By-law 2.110 and its sub-sections.

## Bylaws Changes Continued

### RETIRED TEACHERS

Q. Does the provision for coaching by retired teachers refer only to persons immediately retired from teaching, or to retired teachers regardless of the date of their retirement?

A. The by-law simply states "...a retired teacher from a member school." This statement is interpreted literally. It permits a school to utilize any retired teacher from a member school as a coach, without needing approval of the person as a non-faculty coach, provided the person remains certified to teach in the schools of Illinois.

### MINIMUM AGE OF NON-FACULTY COACHES

Q. Is there an age minimum for non-faculty and/or non-certified personnel who coach?

A. The Board of Directors interprets the provisions of this By-law to require non-faculty and/or non-certified coaches to be high school graduate or equivalent.



"ASEP is committed to improving amateur sport by encouraging coaches, officials, administrators, parents, and athletes to embrace the 'athletes first, winning second' philosophy and by providing the education to put the philosophy to work."

–Rainer Martens, PhD, ASEP founder

## AMERICAN SPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM (ASEP)

The American Sport Education Program (ASEP) is the leading provider of youth, high school, and elite-level sport education programs in the USA. A division of Human Kinetics, Inc., ASEP is based in Champaign, Illinois and was founded by renowned sport psychologist Rainer Martens PhD in 1981. Rooted in the philosophy of "Athletes first, winning second," ASEP has educated more than one million coaches, officials, sport administrators, parents, and athletes. For more than 25 years, local, state, and national sport organizations have partnered with ASEP to lead the way in making sport a safe, successful, and enjoyable experience for all involved. ASEP works directly with more than 40 state high school associations and the IESA in delivering the ASEP Professional Coaches Education Program to more than 25,000 coaches a year. A partial list of other ASEP partners includes Babe Ruth League, Cal Ripken Baseball, US Youth Soccer, Varsity Spirit, USA Wrestling, USA Volleyball, United States Tennis Association, American Football Coaches Association, and numerous park districts and youth sport organizations. For more information on ASEP sport education courses and resources, call 800-747-5698, e-mail [ASEP@hkusa.com](mailto:ASEP@hkusa.com), or visit [www.ASEP.com](http://www.ASEP.com).

## **IESA Mission Statement**

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**The IESA will provide the leadership to ensure safe, equitable opportunities so students in our member schools can be enriched by participation in interscholastic activities which promote good sportsmanship, integrity, and life skills.**

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